

We claim:

- Sub. a3 >*
1. A computer-aided group-learning system for more than one user to work on a subject, the system comprising an interaction controller configured to generate materials on the subject to communicate to one or more users for the one or more users to work on the subject;
 - 5 set a duration of time for users to communicate;
 - 6 start a dialogue session for users to communicate in an area related to the subject;
 - 7 and
 - 8 stop the dialogue session approximately at or before the end of the duration of time.

- REQUESTED DRAFT*
- 1 2. A computer-aided group learning system as recited in claim 1 wherein the interaction controller monitors at least one user's inputs to the system.

- Sub. a3 > 3.*
- 1 3. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 1 further comprising one or more interactive devices, with each interactive device configured for a user to receive information from, and enter information into, the system.

- Sub. a4 >*
- 1 4. A computer-aided group-learning method for more than one user to work on a subject, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 3 generating materials on the subject to communicate to one or more users for the one or more users to work on the subject;
 - 5 setting a duration of time for users to communicate among themselves;
 - 6 starting a dialogue session for users to communicate in an area related to the subject; and
 - 8 stopping the dialogue session approximately at or before the end of the duration of time.

1 5. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 4 further comprising
2 the step of monitoring at least one user's inputs while working on the subject.

1 6. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim ~~4~~¹⁷ further comprising
2 the step of tailoring the materials generated for at least one user to that user.

1 7. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 5 further comprising
2 the step of guiding the users' communication in the dialogue session back to the subject
3 when one or more users have been distracted from the subject for a duration of time.

1 8. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 4 wherein the mode
2 of communication can be selected from a unicast, multicast and broadcast mode.

1 9. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim ~~4~~¹⁷ further comprising
2 the step of producing an answer to respond to a user's question.

1 10. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim ~~4~~¹⁷ further comprising
2 the step of generating materials for a user to individually work on the subject.

1 11. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim ~~4~~¹⁷ wherein the
2 materials to be presented to at least one user can be in one or more formats to be selected
3 by the user.

1 12. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim ~~4~~¹⁷ further comprising
2 the step of restricting one user from communicating with any other users.

1 13. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim ~~4~~¹⁷ wherein the users
2 communicate orally.

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Sub. A

14. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 4 further comprising
2 the step of repeating from the step of generating after the step of stopping.

- 1 15. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 1 further comprising
2 an initializer configured to set the subject.

- 1 16. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 2 further comprising a
2 performance analyzer operatively coupled to the interaction controller for analyzing the
3 monitored inputs.

- 1 17. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 5 further comprising
2 the step of analyzing the monitored inputs.

- Sub. B* 1 18. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 17 wherein the
2 analysis includes analyzing one or more users' performance on the subject.

- 1 19. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 17 wherein the
2 analysis includes analyzing a user's interaction in the dialogue session.

- 1 20. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 17 wherein the
2 analysis includes analyzing the relevancy of the user's inputs.

- 1 21. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 17 wherein the
2 analysis includes analyzing the approach the user asks questions.

- 1 22. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 20 wherein the
2 analysis includes analyzing if the user is disruptive.

- 1 23. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 19 wherein the
2 analysis includes analyzing if the user dominates the dialogue session.

- 1 24. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 19 wherein the
2 analysis includes analyzing the frequency of the user's inputs.
- 1 25. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 22 wherein the
2 analysis includes generating a dictionary of words based on the inputs of one or more
3 other users.
- 1 26. A computer-aided group-learning system for more than one user to work on a
2 subject, the system comprising:
3 an interaction controller configured to
4 generate materials on the subject to communicate to one or more users for
5 the one or more users to work on the subject;
6 set a duration of time for users to communicate in a dialogue session; and
7 monitor at least one user's inputs to the system; and
8 a performance analyzer operatively coupled to the interaction controller for
9 analyzing the monitored inputs;
10 wherein the materials generated for at least one user are tailored to that user based
11 on the monitored inputs.
- 1 27. A computer-aided group-learning system for more than one user to work on a
2 subject, the system comprising:
3 an interaction controller configured to
4 set a duration of time for users to communicate;
5 start a dialogue session for users to communicate in an area related to the
6 subject;
7 stop the dialogue session approximately at or before the end of the duration
8 of time; and
9 monitor at least one user's inputs to the system; and

10 a performance analyzer operatively coupled to the interaction controller for
11 analyzing the monitored inputs.

1 28. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 2 further comprising:
2 a recommendation generator coupled to the interaction controller for
3 recommending the actions of the interaction controller based on the inputs monitored; and
4 a report generator for generating reports on each user to show what the user
5 should work on.

1 29. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 5 further comprising
2 the steps of:
3 providing recommendation on generating materials for one or more users based on
4 the inputs monitored; and
5 generating reports on each user to show what the user should work on.

1 ~~30.~~ A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a
2 user registry operatively coupled to the interaction controller for restricting the users who
3 can use the system to work on the subject.

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1 31. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 4 further comprising
2 the step of restricting users who can work on the subject.

1 32. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 31 further comprising
2 the step of obtaining inputs from a potential user for determining whether the potential
3 user may be allowed to join the one or more existing users to work on the subject.

1 ~~33.~~ A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim ~~32~~ wherein the
2 determination depends on inputs from one or more of the existing users, who can discuss
3 the determination in a dialogue session.

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1 *34.* A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim *31* further comprising
2 the step of retrieving a summarized profile of the existing users for a potential user to
3 decide on joining the one or more existing users to work on the subject.

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1 *35.* A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim *31* further comprising
2 the step of allowing a potential user to interact with the one or more existing users in a
3 dialogue session for a pre-determined period of time for determining whether the potential
4 user might join the existing users to work on the subject.

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1 *36.* A computer-aide group-learning method as recited in claim *31* further comprising
2 the step of forbidding, in the future, an existing user from working on the subject with the
3 one or more other users.

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1 *37.* A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim *36* wherein the step
2 of forbidding depends on recommendations from the one or more other users.

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1 *38.* A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim *31* further comprising
2 the step of limiting a user's interaction to observing but not interacting in the dialogue
3 session.

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1 *39.* A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim *31* further comprising
2 the step of suggesting a user to join another group of users to work on the subject.

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1 40. A computer-aided group-learning system for more than one user to work on a
2 subject, the system comprising:
3 a user registry for restricting the users who can use the system;
4 an interaction controller operatively coupled to the user registry, the controller
5 configured to
6 generate materials on the subject to communicate to the users who can use
7 the system to work on the subject;

8 set a duration of time for users to communicate in a dialogue session; and
9 monitor at least one user's inputs to the system; and
10 a performance analyzer operatively coupled to the interaction controller for
11 analyzing the monitored inputs.

1 41. A computer-aided learning system comprising:
2 a user registry for restricting one or more users who can use the system to work
3 on the subject;
4 an interaction controller operatively coupled to the user registry, the interaction
5 controller configured to
6 generate materials on the subject for the one or more users who can use the
7 system to work on the subject; and
8 monitor at least one user's inputs to the system; and
9 a performance analyzer operatively coupled to the interaction controller for
10 analyzing the monitored inputs.

1 42. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 2 further comprising:
2 a performance analyzer operatively coupled to the interaction controller for
3 analyzing the monitored inputs to generate a profile of one or more users; and
4 a user-profile storage medium for storing the one or more users' profile.

1 ~~43.~~ A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim ~~42~~ wherein the one or
2 more users' profile includes the performance of one or users' on the subject.

1 ~~44.~~ A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim ~~42~~ wherein the one or
2 more users' profile includes the one or more users' input characteristics.

1 ~~45.~~ A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim ~~42~~ wherein the user-
2 profile storage medium stores all of the users' communication in the dialogue session.

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1 46. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 42 wherein the user-
2 profile storage-medium is separated into a private and a public area, with the public area
3 storing information that can be accessed by any person.

1 47. A computer-aided group-learning method recited in claim 5 further comprising the
2 steps of:
3 analyzing the monitored inputs to generate a profile of one or more users; and
4 storing the one or more users' profile in a storage medium.

1 48. A computer-aided group-learning system for more than one user to work on a
2 subject, the system comprising:
3 an interaction controller configured to
4 generate materials on the subject to communicate to the users for them to
5 work on the subject;
6 set a duration of time for users to communicate in a dialogue session; and
7 monitor at least one user's inputs to the system;
8 a performance analyzer operatively coupled to the interaction controller for
9 analyzing the monitored inputs to generate a profile of one or more users; and
10 a user-profile storage medium for storing the one or more users' profile.

1 49. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a
2 notepad for a user to take notes.

1 50. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 49 wherein the system
2 is configured to allow the user to cut materials the user has received, and paste the
3 materials in the notepad.

1 51. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 49 wherein the system
2 is configured to allow the user to link the notes taken to the materials received by the user.

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- 1 52. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim *51* wherein the link is
2 from an area in the notes to a point in the materials.
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- Sub. a^b* > 53. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 49 wherein the
2 interaction controller guides the user to take notes.

- 16*
- 1 54. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim *53* wherein the
2 guidance depends on the user's inputs into the system.
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- 1 55. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim *4* further comprising
2 the step of allocating an area to allow a user to take notes.
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- 1 56. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim *55* further comprising
2 the step of guiding the user to take notes.
- 44*

- Sub. a^b* 1 57. A computer-aided learning system comprising:
2 a notepad for a user to take notes while working on a subject through the system;
3 and
4 an interaction controller for generating materials on the subject for the user, and
5 for guiding the user to take notes.

- 52*
- 1 58. A computer-aided learning system as recited in claim *57* wherein the system is
2 configured to allow the user to cut materials the user has received, and paste the materials
3 in the notepad.
- 51*

- Sub. a^c* > 59. A computer-aided learning system as recited in claim 57 wherein the system is
2 configured to allow the user to link the notes taken to the materials generated by the
3 generator on the subject.

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- 1 60. A computer-aided group-learning system as recited in claim 59 wherein the link is
2 from an area in the notes to a point in the materials.

- Sub. a3x
- 1 61. A computer-aided learning system as recited in claim 57 wherein:
2 the interaction controller is configured to monitor the user's inputs while the user
3 is working on the subject; and
4 the guidance depends on the monitored inputs.
- 1 62. A computer-aided learning method comprising the steps of:
2 generating materials on a subject for a user;
3 allocating an area for a user to take notes; and
4 guiding the user to take notes.

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